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HOUSE RESOLUTION 26 of the First Extraordinary Session
By Cooper B

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the students, faculty and administration at Manassas High School upon their 100th anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should recognize those remarkable schools who have made significant contributions to this state; and

WHEREAS, Manassas High School is most assuredly one such exemplary school which has produced outstanding graduates who have excelled in all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Manassas High School received its name from Manassas Street, a name derived from the first major battle of the Civil War fought on July 21, 1861 in Virginia near a village called Manassas along the banks of the winding Bull Run River; and

WHEREAS, in 1899, Mr. Spencer Johnson took the lead in advocating a neighborhood school for African Americans; and

WHEREAS, beginning as a two-room framed structure with Attorney William H. Foote as its first principal, Manassas progressed into a 16-room building; and

WHEREAS, in 1921, a two-story frame building was added and that same year, Manassas became the only four-year accredited African American high school in Shelby County, and thus, graduated its first senior class; and

WHEREAS, in 1917, Mr. Julius Rosenwald, a businessman, humanitarian and philanthropist, created the Julius Rosenwald Fund which contributed to the Manassas High School, and aided African American schools across the south in the 1920s; and

WHEREAS, in 1927, Mrs. Cora P. Taylor along with the students, faculty and the community at Manassas High School erected the auditorium that was named in her honor, the Cora P. Taylor Auditorium. Although this building was demolished in 1976, a historical marker of the legendary Isaac Hayes, a Grammy award-winning singer, composer, actor, and graduate of Manassas, stands where the Cora P. Taylor Auditorium once stood; and

WHEREAS, among many of the upstanding graduates from Manassas High School are the honorable Representatives Barbara Cooper and alumnus Ulysses Jones; and

WHEREAS, in 1929, Mr. J. Ashton was appointed principal of Manassas High School and during his 24-year tenure, the modern structure of fifty rooms was completed. He also coined the motto of the school, "The Best Is None Too Good For Manassas"; and

WHEREAS, inspired by the school motto, Mrs. Georgia P. Quinn, a Manassas vocal teacher, wrote the school song, "Gold and Blue, the Emblem of Manassas", a song that would proudly echo through the school's halls in the years to come; and

WHEREAS, during the tenure of Mr. Logan Mitchell, the school was completely renovated and a new office, library, new vocals music department, vocational office of education and a home economics facility was built; and

WHEREAS, currently under the illustrious leadership of Mr. Joe Davis, Manassas continues to provide an exceptional education program; and

WHEREAS, Manassas has been supported by the Manassas Alumni Chapters, the community and the adopters: Baptist Memorial Healthcare, the Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) and Trinity C.M.E. Church; and

WHEREAS, marking its Centennial Anniversary in 1999, an esteemed celebration, "Reclaiming the Glory", will be hosted by the Manassas Alumni Association in August; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the 1999 Centennial Celebration is the rejuvenation of the school, particularly through student enrollment and enrichment. The Manassas Alumni's aspiration is to restore the school to its former excellence; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby
honor and congratulate the students, faculty and administration of Manassas High School upon
their 100th anniversary, and extend to them our best wishes for much continued success in the
years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared
for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.